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STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jerzy ZALESKI (Poland)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly in accordance with its resolution 46/42 of 6 December 1991.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1992, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 October 1992, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 49 to 65, 68 and 142; and 67 and 69. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 21st meetings, from 12 to 28 October (see A/C.1/47/PV.3-21). Consideration of draft resolutions on those items took place between the 22nd and 30th meetings, from 29 October to 11 November (see A/C.1/47/PV.22-30). Action on draft resolutions on items 67 and 69 took place at the 37th meeting, on 20 November (see A/C.1/47/PV.37).

4. In connection with item 67, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region (A/47/524);

(b) Letter dated 30 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/307);

(c) Letter dated 30 June 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/310);

(d) Letter dated 11 August 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/375-S/24429);

(e) Letter dated 2 November 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/618-S/24747);

(f) Letter dated 26 October 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/47/8).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/47/L.46 AND REV.1

5. On 12 November, Albania, Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Morocco and Tunisia submitted a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region" (A/C.1/47/L.46).

6. On 18 November, the sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/47/L.46/Rev.1), which was introduced by the representative of Algeria at the 37th meeting, on 20 November. The revised draft resolution contained the following changes:

(a) Operative paragraph 5, which had read:

"5. Takes note of the conclusions concerning the Mediterranean of the Tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 1 to 6 September 1992"

was revised to read:

"5. Takes note of the conclusions of the Tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 1 to 6 September 1992, specifically paragraphs 36 to 39 of the Final Document on political issues concerning the Mediterranean";

(b) In operative paragraph 13, the phrase "to undertake a study that would explore means" was replaced by "to submit a report on means".

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.46/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

8. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including its resolution 46/42 of 6 December 1991,

Reaffirming the primary role of the Mediterranean countries in strengthening and promoting peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region,

Recognizing the efforts realized so far and the determination of the Mediterranean countries to intensify the process of dialogue and consultations with a view to resolving the problems existing in the Mediterranean region and eliminating the causes of tension and the consequent threat to peace and security,

Recognizing also the indivisible character of security in the Mediterranean and that the enhancement of cooperation among Mediterranean countries with a view to promoting the economic and social development of all peoples of the region will contribute significantly to stability, peace and security in the region,

Recognizing further that prospects for closer Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in all spheres can be enhanced by positive developments world wide, particularly in Europe,

Expressing satisfaction at the growing awareness of the need for joint efforts by all Mediterranean countries so as to strengthen economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation in the Mediterranean region,

Reaffirming the responsibility of all States to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean region and their commitment to respect the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, 1/

1/ Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

Expressing its concern at the persistent tension and continuing military activities in parts of the Mediterranean that hinder efforts to strengthen security and cooperation in the region,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on this item, 2/

1. Reaffirms that security in the Mediterranean is closely linked to European security as well as to international peace and security;

2. Expresses satisfaction at the continuing efforts by Mediterranean countries to contribute actively to the elimination of all causes of tension in the region and to the promotion of just and lasting solutions to the persistent problems of the region through peaceful means, thus ensuring the withdrawal of foreign forces of occupation and respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries of the Mediterranean and the right of peoples to self-determination, and therefore calls for full adherence to the principles of non-interference, non-intervention, non-use of force or threat of use of force and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. Welcomes the efforts by the Mediterranean countries in the continuation of initiatives and negotiations as well as the adoption of measures that will promote confidence- and security-building as well as disarmament in the Mediterranean region, and encourages them to pursue these efforts further;

4. Recognizes that the elimination of the economic and social disparities in levels of development as well as other obstacles in the Mediterranean area will contribute to enhancing peace, security and cooperation among Mediterranean countries;

5. Takes note of the conclusions of the Tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 1 to 6 September 1992, 3/ specifically paragraphs 36 to 39 of the Final Document on political issues concerning the Mediterranean;

6. Recalls the decisions taken by the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Western Mediterranean Countries, held at Algiers in October 1991, and the decision concerning the forthcoming summit meeting of the Western Mediterranean countries to be held at Tunis;

7. Takes note of the Helsinki Document, "The Challenges of Change", adopted in July 1992, whereby the heads of State or Government of the States

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2/ A/47/524.

3/ See A/47/675-S/24816, annex.

participating in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe agreed, inter alia, to widen their cooperation and enlarge their dialogue with the non-participating Mediterranean States as a means to promote social and economic development thereby enhancing stability in the region, in order to narrow the prosperity gap between Europe and its Mediterranean neighbours and protect the Mediterranean ecosystems;

8. Takes note also of the Declaration of the European Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community on relations between Europe and the Maghreb, 4/ issued at Lisbon on 25 June 1992;

9. Welcomes in this context the decision to convene a Mediterranean seminar of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe under the auspices of the Committee of Senior Officials to consider various topics, including the environment, demographic trends or economic development and other areas of bilateral and multilateral cooperation between States participating in the Conference and non-participating Mediterranean States, reflecting the general framework of principles of cooperation in the Mediterranean region as provided for in the Final Act and other documents of the Conference;

10. Takes note of the conclusions and recommendations of the first Inter-Parliamentary Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean, 5/ held at Malaga, Spain, from 15 to 20 June 1992, which, inter alia, launched a pragmatic process of cooperation that would gradually gain in strength and coverage, generate a positive and irreversible momentum and facilitate the settlement of disputes;

11. Encourages the continued widespread support among Mediterranean countries for the convening of a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean, as well as the ongoing regional consultations to create the appropriate conditions for its convening;

12. Takes note of the adoption by the Economic Commission for Europe of its decision G (47), entitled "Economic cooperation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe", and, in this context, calls upon the Executive Secretaries of the relevant United Nations regional commissions as well as other United Nations bodies concerned to strengthen their cooperation on matters that are of common interest to the Mediterranean countries and that will have a positive impact on the region as a whole, in particular in the economic, social, humanitarian and environmental spheres;

4/ A/47/310, annex.

5/ A/C.1/47/8, annex.

13. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region;

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session the item entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region".